

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update Issued on Conditions of State Parks and Beaches In Western Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

The California Department of Parks and Recreation issued the following update today on the condition of State Parks and Beaches in Western Ventura and Santa Barbara counties as a result of recent weather conditions:

- McGrath State Beach Campground is wet but remains open and full, despite heavy storm debris along the beach which continues to come ashore with storm surf and Santa Clara River flows;
- San Buenaventura State Beach is open. Sector staff working with Ventura City staff on agreement so City can begin to remove beach debris;
- Emma Wood State Beach River Group Campground is closed due to flooding and mud. This week's rains caused entrance road to be blocked by mud flows. Sector staff working with neighbors to address problem;
- Emma Wood North Beach Campground remains closed. Sector staff plans to clear park road for limited use by April 1. Contract to partially remove beach debris awaiting FEMA approval;
- Carpinteria State Beach Campground is open in spite of receiving two to three inches of rain this week and is completely full;
- El Capitan State Beach Campground is open and nearly full with campers;
- Refugio State Beach Campground was again flooded by heavy rains this week and is closed. Staff notified Reservation Unit and Reserve America to cancel all but 10 reservations. Those not canceled were offered sites at El Capitan. Extreme standing water problem in park a safety concern as ponding water now impacting park's leach fields and also breeding ground for mosquitoes. Public Health notices have been posted;

- Gaviota State Park continues to be severely impacted by Gaviota Creek flooding and remains closed and impassible. FEMA restoration work can not start until rains stop and the creek subsides;
- La Purisima Mission State Historical Park is open with no report of storm related damages.

State Park officials said visitors are encouraged to call (805) 968-1033 for an update on park closures in advance of a visit. For camping reservations, please call (800) 444-PARK.

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